

Baptists and Methodists together at Hampton Methodist Church



April 2024



Hampton Methodist Church, Percy Road, Hampton, TW12 2JT

Hampton Mission Partnership is a member of Churches Together around Hampton

Church website <https://hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk>

My football team, which I have supported since I was seven years old currently sit at the top of the League 2 table. They had an incredible run at the beginning of the season with a record-breaking run of at least 20 games unbeaten. This got me thinking about the past and how we all have ups and downs in our lives as time goes on.

My team, Mansfield Town, is one of the country's lower league clubs and will always be so. They have only had one season at the second level of professional football in their entire history. However, as Saint Paul wrote, one of the three things that remain for ever is hope. There will always be the hope that a football team will do better in the future than it has done in the past.

Many of us live out our lives in the seemingly hum drum atmosphere of our own day to day living. Very few of us will appear in the public eye for anything that we have done no matter how conscientious we may be in covering our own work load.

We are approaching the time of Easter when we rejoice in the historical facts that Jesus has borne our sin and has defeated death by the evidence of his resurrection. Who would have thought that someone born in Palestine over 2000 years ago, to humble parents living in a humble home would be celebrated such a time after his life. When we look at it like that it seems most peculiar that such things should happen.

Why does Jesus have such a profound effect on the world years after his earthly life? Well I will tell you. Jesus has that effect because he can change people's lives and does so even today.

I have just finished reading a book about a man called Stephen Lungu who was born when there was a government in Rhodesia which is now Zimbabwe which was a white government. He was a black man. He was the oldest son of a teenage mother who was married off to a much older man by her parents. He lived near Salisbury which is now Harare. When he was three his mother ran away leaving him with his younger sister and brother in the reluctant care of an aunt. By the age of 11 Stephen too had run away preferring to live out on the streets.

He was recruited, as a teenager into one of the urban gangs called the Black Shadows which ran a half-focussed programme of dreaming of revolution. When a travelling evangelist came to town Stephen was sent to fire bomb the event, carrying his bag of bombs and mingling with the crowd. Instead of throwing bombs he stayed to listen and his life was changed.

Stephen could not read or write but acquired a Bible and could be seen preaching on the streets. He eventually learnt how to read and came to be the leader of African Enterprise which conducted campaigns over Africa and in other countries throughout the world. He travelled to many countries serving God.

I am aware that this magazine may well be read many weeks after Easter but Jesus still has the same effect on individuals all through the year. Easter is not about eggs or bonnets or bunnies; it is remembering and celebrating that Jesus is alive for evermore and can and wants to live as a real living presence in the lives of people who turn to him and offer their lives in service to him.

May God bless you

Your friend

Philip Slater

To grow a healthy, fruit-bearing church, try this plan

Plant three rows of squash:

Squash gossip,
Squash criticism,
Squash indifference.

Plant seven rows of peas:

Prayer,
Promptness,
Perseverance,
Politeness,
Preparedness,
Purity,
Patience.

Plant seven heads of lettuce:

Let us be unselfish and loyal,
Let us be faithful to duty,
Let us search the Scriptures,
Let us not be weary in well-doing,
Let us be obedient in all things,
Let us be truthful,
Let us love one another.

No garden is complete without turnips:

Turn up for church,
Turn up for meetings, in prayer, and Bible study,
Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult,
Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service.

After planting, may you grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)

May you reap rich results.

From David Priddy

Breakfast Church Bible Study

Sunday 7 January 2024

The visit of the Magi

Christmas carol:

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star*

*O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy Perfect Light*

Matthew 2:1,2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

Who were they?

- Not Kings – but expensive trio of gifts suggest a certain level of wealth and status
- Kings were in the habit of gathering the best and brightest into an advisory body of wise men, stargazers and dreamers
- Group of astrologers, wise men or priests
- Astrologers and interpreters of omens – following a star and dreaming dreams

Where did they come from?

- Not local
- Said to have travelled from the East
- Possibly Ancient Persia – 'Magi' comes from an old Persian word
- Possibly Ancient Arabia known for its vast wealth from gold mines in Africa, as well as the trees from which frankincense and myrrh are derived

How many were there?

- Not three
- We don't know how many there were
- Bible simply says 'some'
- Often thought to be 3 because of the number of named gifts they brought

Matthew 2:11

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Christmas carol:

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign*

Gold – represents wealth and power

- in recognition of Jesus' kingly status – they were looking for 'the King of the Jews'

- Gold in the bible is symbolic of God – the furniture of the tabernacle features gold, the mercy seat and two cherubim were made of pure gold (Exodus 25:10-21)
- the gift of gold pointed to the Son who was given by God to be King of His people and emphasises his divine authority

Christmas carol:

*Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God most high*

Frankincense – an aromatic, clear resin obtained from trees in northern India and Arabia

- used in incense and perfume
- treasured for its aroma and healing properties and commonly used during worship in the temple
- points to the work of Jesus as a Priest of God (Exodus 30:34-37) who ministered to the people

Christmas carol:

*Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume, breathes a life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb*

Myrrh – a spice used for medicine, cosmetics and anointing oil

- used to anoint prophets for the divinely appointed work of revealing God and communicating His will and words to His people
- Jesus came to the nation of Israel as a Prophet in fulfilment of a prophecy of Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15) Jesus spoke the words of the Father (John 12:49)
- also used in the anointing of the dead
- Myrrh was presented to Jesus at his birth pointing to His life as a Prophet and it was used at His death to anoint His body for the grave

These gifts represent three aspects of Jesus' identity: his kingship, divinity and sacrificial role as in Verse 5 of the carol:

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies*

So as we see the Magi were outsiders – but this suggests that whoever we are, and wherever we are from - God invites us to come and worship Jesus.

But don't worry we don't have to bring gold, frankincense or myrrh, just ourselves!

Or as the last verse in another carol (*In the bleak midwinter*) says:

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Chris Broomfield

The Extra Mile

On 11 December the Extra Mile had a visit from ex-England rugby player and Question of Sport team leader Ugo Monye who came on behalf of The Royal Foundation as part of their package of activities to try to drive support for local baby banks. He helped wrap presents and sort donations and was very interested in all we do and amazed at the differing needs of those referred to us. Watch a video of his visit from his Instagram account on our church website

<https://hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk/the-extra-mile>

Ugo is pictured below with some of our amazing, dedicated Extra Mile volunteers who meet every Monday and Wednesday morning to put together referrals, to hand these over to health professionals and other referrers and to receive donations previously agreed with us. We appreciate the support of our church and others who respond when we put out a call for items such as adult bedding and pans for cooking, which we don't usually provide but will attempt to do so in cases of great need.

We were also thrilled to be contacted by the manager of Harris and Hoole coffee shop in St Margaret's who wanted to support us through their Giving Tree during December 2023. Customers could take a leaf from the tree and provide whatever was written on it (suggestions obtained from us beforehand.) Kate delivered a mountain of items including lovely toys, books and clothing in the ages we needed. They are continuing to support us for the rest of the year!

We have a wonderful relationship with Stripey Stork who deliver to us from Reigate monthly, usually with items we are struggling to provide like double buggies. Recently they gave us bags of toiletries for mums for Mothering Sunday. Read about the work they do here <https://stripeystork.org.uk>

We currently need prams in good condition for newborns and double buggies. You can contact us at theextramile@hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk

Liz Windaybank



Memories of Hampton

At Ladies Guild on 20 February members were invited to share their memories of when they moved to Hampton. This is what Joyce shared with us: -

Before I was married, I lived with my parents in Chessington and my husband-to-be lived with his in Kingston Hill. On 30 March 1957 Art and I were married and we spent our honeymoon in Bournemouth. On our return we moved into the house in Hollybush Lane, Hampton. We chose Hampton because Art then worked for the Metropolitan Water Board. At the bottom of our garden were the remains of an old Anderson bomb shelter which Art transformed into a temporary shed. The garden was thoroughly dug and potatoes planted, so we had a good supply in our first year in Hampton.

We discovered that Hollybush Lane was lit by gas, and each evening just before nightfall a man with a very long pole walked along the road and lit each street lamp. He was our lamp-lighter for the first year of our residence. It was replaced by electricity after one year and was much brighter.

We signed on at the local doctors' surgery in Priory Road run by Doctors George and son David Woodroffe. They were very amiable people and would wave to you if they saw you in the street when they drove by. It was very much a village atmosphere.

We had bread and milk deliveries. There were four shops in our road just a few doors away. I had a small notebook into which I wrote my grocery order each week and popped it through the door of the grocer's shop. He then delivered the goods in a box when I returned home from work. One day he told me an item wasn't available and asked if my mummy was in as he wished to explain it! I felt most put out and told him I was 'mummy' and he apologised! I was only 21 years old and looked a bit young for my age which I hated. Poor man – he must have felt awful. He was a very pleasant guy and we laughed about it later!

A man used to call to collect any dry-cleaning which was very useful and another man came to collect my Co-op Insurance premiums regularly. Bags of coal were delivered into our coal bunker in the rear garden for our Courtier and later Parkray back boiler stoves. You had to count the number of bags to ensure the right amount was delivered.

Of course we didn't have a car at that stage and had to walk to the railway station for a bus to Kingston (216 or 264 that also went to Staines). For Twickenham or Richmond it was a long walk to Hampton Hill. The bus service has definitely improved a lot.

For a number of years I used to queue to get my Sunday joint every week from the butchers in Priory Road, served by Ron Watchorn and his assistant Bert. My vegetables came from the greengrocers that was nearby. Some years later when my children started at the junior school I used to queue for vegetables at Easts in Oldfield Road. That was where I met up with Gladys – we were both in the queue and recognised one another from our school days in Surbiton. We had both moved to Hampton ten years earlier but lived at different ends and had never met up before!

There were a good variety of shops in Hampton – Norvic Shoes, a clothes shop where I bought some of my children's clothes, chemists, post offices, banks, and more when the Nurserylands was developed and Sainsburys plus a few small shops arrived. Now they are sadly closing down so Hampton is changing again.

Joyce Nockolds

Vicky Hall, 23rd May, 1967 – 17th February, 2024

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah, c.6 v.8,

Victoria Ann Squires, known to all of us here at HMP as Vicky Hall, was the first child born to Maggie and Chris Squires. Her brother Robert joined the family later. They lived in Hampton and Vicky only moved from the area in March 2021 when she and her husband David realised a long-held wish to live near the sea and they moved to Rustington.

Vicky was a bright, energetic child who journeyed through the local schools – first at Carlisle Infants, then Hampton Juniors and from there to Waldegrave School for Girls. Her sixth form years were spent at Richmond upon Thames College from which she progressed to Oxford Brooks University where she studied French and German.

During these years she joined the Guides and then progressed to the Venture Scouts attached to Teddington Baptist Church (TBC). This was a life shaping move; Vicky saw that the Christians who she met, “had something I didn’t have and something I wanted to be”, (from Vicky’s testimony when she joined Littlehampton Baptist Church in 2023). It was here that she met a fellow venture scout David Hall. Friendship led to a deeper relationship and they married in 1991.

Following graduation Vicky worked in the construction industry and in the succeeding years became a specialist in Health and Safety and risk management working in a range of organisations including the National Physical Laboratory, LB Hounslow and latterly with William Martin Ltd. On 7th July, 2005, the day of the London bombings, she walked home to Hampton from a meeting in central London.

Vicky and David were key members of the team from TBC which founded Hampton Baptist Church – Vicky was its first Church Secretary and served in that role until Susie, their first daughter was born. Lucy came later but at high speed, managing to be born at home in Hatherop Road before Vicky and David could leave for the West Middlesex Hospital!

There were memorable holidays often to places where Susie and Lucy were studying and increasingly to the USA when Susie decided to settle there. Both girls had been part of a scheme to promote softball in the UK and Vicky’s organisational abilities led to her becoming a volunteer administrator and in time to playing for the Thames Valley Hurricanes, who she later captained. One of her team mates described her as, “a great team mate and an even better human”, a person loved for her friendliness, honesty and openness.

At her memorial service Chris Squires said of his daughter, “She was a good Christian, practising what she preached”. In the 1990s and 2000s she and David were central to the development of HBC being Deacons and Youth Leaders. In the latter role they had the joy of seeing ten young people baptised accepting Jesus as their Saviour.

In autumn 2021 Vicky learned that she had bowel cancer. Treatment followed but other cancers were identified resulting in a diagnosis of terminal cancer early in March 2023.

In a time of trial Vicky’s deep faith sustained her – **she knew she would be resurrected and see God.**

Organised in every aspect of her life, Vicky continued to work, see friends and to be part of a Church, joining Littlehampton Baptist where her faith affirming memorial service was held. David says, “She planned for a good Christmas in 2023 and then to say goodbye”. Having ceased chemotherapy in

January 2024 and entered a hospice, Vicky went to her Lord in her sleep early on 17th February, 2024.

“A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned”. Proverbs c.31, v.30-31.

Barbara Spittle and Paul Barker



Visit of Rev Hany Abdelmasih

Our service on 11 February was led by Rev Hany Abdelmasih, the London Baptist Regional Minister for West London which includes Hampton. He gave invaluable advice and support during the period when the Hampton Mission Partnership was being formed 2018-19. He has a passion for equipping churches to preach the Gospel and make disciples in our increasingly secular world. Hany has been a Baptist Minister for 20 years mostly working in London but also in Canada for seven years. He is Egyptian by birth, is married to Judith (who is Dutch) and they have two sons. This is his sermon from 11 February.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18 to 20.

Our purpose

To worship God

These verses that we read today speak of our purpose. When you came together in your partnership, it brought a fresh opportunity fresh direction, and maybe new ideas in mission and ministry through having two different approaches arising from your different denominations and strategies. New possibilities are always there when you come together because God gave you new direction.

However, there's something which cannot be changed and that is our purpose because our purpose as a church is the same as that for any other church. There is one purpose and it cannot change. We are here on Earth for three important things and I intend to share them with you today.

The first thing is that we are here to worship God as our reaction to His love for us is to worship Him. Jesus said, "I will build my church" meaning I will build my gathering. He is talking about His people, not the building, not the denomination but the people of God. This gathering places Him at the centre of our lives able to worship him and worship is always a reaction to what God does in our lives. You see this in the Old Testament. In Exodus you read about God saying to Moses to tell Pharaoh two things; first let my son go, Israel is my first-born son and second, let my son go so that he may worship me. That is the reason for the deliverance from Egypt and His people did exactly that. Once they left Egypt, we read in Exodus 15 this wonderful song, "The Lord is my strength, my song. He has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him, my father's God and I will extol him". Worship is always a response to what God is doing in our lives. Psalm 116 says, "How can I repay the Lord? How can I repay the Lord? for all His goodness to me. What shall I do? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon His name. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of his people". Lifting up the cup of salvation is an expression of Thanksgiving. Calling Him by His name is seeking Him because you know that He deserves to be sought. Our vows are made voluntarily to God because of our love for Him.

Worship is an important part of the purpose of the church. The challenge is how and in what way should we worship and this is where some people find it difficult with every tradition having its own way of worship. You might prefer a quiet time, others worship with a lot of songs and some traditions have a lot of dancing in their worship. The thing is worship is not about what we do, worship is about being with God, being His gathering. That is what He was talking about when He said, "If two or three are gathered together in my name I will be in the midst of them" - it is about gathering.

Sometimes we can do all the songs and all the dances or attend whatever form of worship we prefer but we are not gathered. This is because it is not about being physically gathered, it is much more. You need to be spiritually gathered and why is that? Because it is no longer just about, “Oh I attend the church. I worship”. You could be physically here but your mind is thinking about the things you will do later, the problem that you encountered last weekend and so on. Maybe Jesus has summarised it clearly for us when He said, “There is a time when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth”. This is the context of richness in worship. We are His temple, gathered to worship Him in spirit and truth. It means worship is the work of the Spirit. We have to be engaged fully, so that He can touch our hearts. We offer him ourselves not just with our hands but with our hearts. And we need to worship the truth, Jesus himself. And we worship him authentically. It means our words and our prayers must resonate with the reality of our hearts. If we feel down, and we see it all the time in Psalms, we start by loading all our negative feelings onto God. “Lord, why do you leave me? Why? Why, Why?”, but by the end of the song, what do you find? Great peace and worship and this is because the summit is in God's presence, in true worship, connecting with God.

Worship is also more than just what we say or what we do in church life. We read in Romans 12 that we need to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. This is our reasonable act of worship - to be pleasing and holy to God. It means that we are here to worship, even when we are not gathered but scattered in every part of the world, in every situation we are in, whether we are at work, at home with neighbours or in the presence of God, we offer ourselves fully to Him.

Love one another

We are here not just to worship but also to love one another.

This is an important part of the purpose of the church. We are here to give love to one another. Jesus said, “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me where I am but where I am going you cannot come”. That was a certain thing to the disciples. If you lived with Jesus for about three years and he says, “I'm going to leave you”, they will be sad. He will be truly missed because He loved them. He cared for them. They left everything and He became their life, their support and their strength. He provided security and safety for them, even if they did not have money at times, they did not need it because they had him. And now he's going. When you continue the reading from John, c.13, in verse 34, He says, “A new command I give you to love one another, as I loved you. As I have loved you, so you must love one another”. So he says, “I'm leaving, but hey,

you need to love one another". But he didn't tell them, just love one another, He told them how to love one another "as I loved you".

This was not just any love. You see I, Hany, can love you. You can love me as much as I can love you. But the greatest challenge is if we want to love one another as He loved us, because we know that He took the pain and sorrow for us, even though we continue struggling with sin in this world, He remains forgiving, caring and protecting of us. He never rejects his children regardless of whatever actions we might do, even if it saddens his heart. And that is what is asked of us, to love one another in the same way in the church because the body of Christ is only visible in local congregations. How we look after the body of Christ that He left in the world is by loving each other in each local congregation. In verse 35, John 13, He said that by this all people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another as He loved us, because that set us in a different reality to that of the rest of the world. In the world, love is give and take. In Christ, love is all taken from Him and given without desiring anything from other people. It is given because you already receive it. You are so grateful for what He did in your life and you continue to love one another. However, the reality of our human life is that the more we get close to one another the more we give as we try to love like Christ. You become committed to one another beyond your human resources.

What does it mean to love one another? Jesus did something to teach his disciples about this which we see in John, chapter 13, and verse 12 after He had finished washing their feet. The washing of the feet is one of the most remarkable things we can reflect on. Why? Because in the Middle East, where I come from, you come in from the very hot weather, muddy roads, a dusty environment and what you need is cold water to put your feet in. In that water is some salt because you lose a lot of salt in the heat and you can feel it refreshing you. The fullness goes from your feet into your head and refreshes you. Washing the feet was not just about being clean after travelling on roads that were muddy and dirty but about comfort. It is the first thing to do - instead of asking someone, "Would you like a cup of tea?", you say, "Let's have some water to wash your feet". Is it the place of the servant, the least in the house to do this or should the host do it to honour the guests? This is basic hospitality so when Jesus went to the meal and no one washed anyone's feet He said if you can't even wash each other's feet how you can love one another? So He washed His disciples' feet and then told them something to remember, "Now that I, your Lord and teacher have washed your feet you should also wash each other's feet. I have set you an example. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them".

Knowledge is something important, but it is just the first step. If you did nothing with the knowledge then you missed the blessing. How do we wash each other's feet now? Should we have some water

outside and every time someone comes we wash their feet? It would be a great expression of humility and love to one another, but, practically, that is not the purpose for us now which is to practically serve one another. 1 Corinthians 12 says we should have equal concern for each other. We have equal consent. We really care about each other. In Galatians 6, it says if someone is caught in a sin – perhaps someone gets upset, angry or makes a mistake. What do you do? You, who are spiritual, should restore that person gently. You care for one another. As John said in 1 John, chapter 3, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and truth. You can really know how much people love each other when there is conflict, not when things are going well. When things go wrong, when the church wants us to do this and I'm not happy how much you love the congregation, do you stay together? Or, "Oh, I don't like what's happening. I'm not going to come". When someone does something really bad, what are we going to do? Difficult times are the real test of how much we love one another. And as you do that, remember you are looking after the body of Christ worldwide because you are part of it.

Witness to the world

The last important part of our purpose is that we are here to witness to the Lord. We are here to witness in the world, to him, for him. We are here to worship God. We are here to love one another. But we are here also to witness to the world, to tell the world about Him.

Many people are very concerned about loving one another and worshipping God, so it is easy for the church to become a very cosy, loving club. You'll be loved. You'll be cared for and we had a fantastic time. The worship lifted us up, it was really a fantastic time. If we think in this way we miss the point and we are really going to miss the point of the purpose of the church if our ministry, our life, is into loving one another when it should be God. You will agree with me that the best worship is in heaven and you would agree that we will be well cared for in heaven. Were we without the purpose of serving and witnessing in the world, we should be all in heaven. That's the best place. You get the best pianist and you get the best worship team and the best great pastor of all, The Great Shepherd. We don't need to stay here, why did he leave us here?

Matthew 5, verse 13, tells us you are the salt of the Earth. You make the world taste better. People get in touch with Christianity and find something missing in the world, but that's not actually the sole purpose. You are here to keep this world alive for eternity. You are the light of the world. You are here to replace the darkness with the light of Christ, and as we read in 2 Corinthians, chapter 5 God reconciled the world to himself, the world through Christ. He has given us the ministry of

reconciliation. Paul is saying we received two gifts here. One is that we have been reconciled a gift from God, a gift no one can afford. We also received the gift of being able share it. God has committed to us the message of reconciliation. God saved the world already, now you and I are here to save this world by spreading the message and bringing people into His Kingdom.

Paul continues in verse 20, 2 Corinthians 5 that we are therefore Christ's ambassadors, it is as though God was making his appeal through us. Can you imagine what Paul is saying? We became the ambassador for the New Kingdom so that everyone should arrive there. God is talking to us and through us to the world and inviting people. We implore people on Christ's behalf to be reconciled with God. Sometimes people have the idea that if other people want to get into the life of Christ they will just come to church. But Paul is saying something different here - the Church should go to them.

The church has a message; a message to share the good news. Jesus said make disciples of all nations, teach them to obey everything I have commanded you to do. Therefore we need to learn the good news we read in the Bible and share the lessons there so that we can proclaim Him admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom. It is an important task and one that is easy to overlook. We are here to represent Christ to the world not just to tell people about Him. We want people to get to know Jesus. We want people to live closer to Him and learn how to live the life of Christ. Can we really do it? It's a very tough task but Acts 1, verse 8 is the greatest encouragement to us where Jesus says to His disciples, "Don't worry. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses". Like the disciples before us we find it difficult at first but when we rely on the power of God we are able to do this naturally. Just as Paul said God is making His appeal through us and He is talking through you.

I pray that God will help us to continue to fix our eyes on our purpose which is to worship Him and to truly love one another, regardless of circumstances, regardless of what could happen, to love each other practically and to continue to hold on to this incredible privilege of being light and soul and Ambassador for Christ in this world. What a privilege to see others coming into the Kingdom of God through us. We find that we have a family, the family of God. We find brothers and sisters with whom we can work together and worship together.

I pray, Lord, that you will continue to bless your people here to grow in the life of worship and service to one another and also to you in this world, to be effective witnesses to reach out with the good news to the world that they are in. We thank you because you have promised that you will build your Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. So we thank you because now we are co-workers with you. May you guide and lead us forward in Jesus name I pray.

David Cargill: 25 May 1946 – 18 November 2023

Many people may remember David Cargill, as he was the church treasurer for Hanworth Methodist Church for many years, and he was also one of the organisers of the Circuit Sports Day which was held in the past – in fact he acted as starter for the races. The following is an edited extract from the Order of his Memorial Service that was held at Hanworth Methodist Church on Saturday 24th February 2024.

David was born in Queen Alexandra's Nursing Home, Twickenham. He was the eldest of three children born to Cyril and Annette Cargill and the family moved to Swan Road, Hanworth around 1949/50 and to Harvest Road in Feltham in 1971.

As a small boy he was very ill and lost many months of schooling so the family was delighted when he passed his 11+ and achieved a place at Sunbury Grammar School. He enjoyed science and especially chemistry.

He was an avid collector of the new 45rpm records and was delighted when dad came home one day with a Dansette record player. His dad said it ruined his attention to his homework! David also collected stamps from an early age, and stamp collecting remained a steadfast pursuit until the end and the hobby expanded to first day covers and postmarks – it is quite a collection.

After school he joined Beechams as a lab technician but was frustrated by the lack of promotion and he then joined the GLC as a traffic order maker. The work suited his attention to detail and he developed a deep expertise in Road Traffic Act legislation and the layout of certain neighbourhoods. He survived outsourcing to various private consultancies prior to the Councils insourcing the work – indeed he was still working at 77 for the London Borough of Ealing – his team sorely miss him and his expertise.

David never learned to ride a bike or to drive a car, he was a consummate user of public transport and never slow to complain about the poor service he endured on buses and South West Trains. As a CAMRA member it is just as well he did not drive given his love for real ale!

David was interested in history including being a member of Feltham History Group.

He also loyally supported Brentford Football Club (The Bees) for years. This was a bit of a family tradition introduced by his dad back in the day. Somewhat of a change these days from the 4th Division years!

David's other great love was the church – he was a member of Hanworth Methodist Church for over 50 years and was the church treasurer for many years. He will be sorely missed by a number of the congregation. He was also a generous person and a number of charities will miss his many contributions.

David had not been in good health for some time, but sadly refused help and offers of lifts to doctors, and he died on the 18th November 2023.

Willem Sandberg



World Day of Prayer 2024

The annual World Day of Prayer Service is hosted in turn by one of eight churches in the Hampton and Hampton Hill area. This year was the turn of our church and took place on 1st March. It was attended by approximately 65 people.

Each year the service is prepared by women from a different country. This year's was written by an ecumenical group of Christian women from Palestine. It was prepared and printed in 2022, well before the current situation developed. It is estimated that just over 5 million Palestinians live in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, of whom about 2% are Christians of different denominations.

The theme was "I beg you, bear with one another in love" based on Ephesians 4 v 1 - 7. Part of the service focused on the stories of three Christian women representing three generations. Through their differing experiences, they illustrated resilience, truth telling and changes in society. Much of the content could well have been written for the present situation.

The olive tree was used as a symbol in the service as it represents everlasting and abundant life. Olive trees can live for thousands of years and some in Palestine today were growing during the time of Jesus. As a reminder of this, bookmarks were made bearing illustrations of olive leaves and these were distributed to everyone who attended.

The local World Day of Prayer committee met several times to plan this service and, with the developing situation in Israel and Gaza, there were one or two who had misgivings about holding the service at all. But the majority were of the opinion that we owed it to the Palestinian women, who wanted their point of view to be heard, to continue. We thought changes might be made but, as we are not allowed to alter any of the content, waited for guidance from the International Committee. This came in the form of an additional prayer to be included, plus a preface to the service.

We wanted to remain non-political and unbiased so were very pleased to receive many positive comments on how sensitively and thoughtfully the service was conducted. For the local committee, we felt that this was one of the most relevant services we have held. The problems which have existed for many years continue to this day, indeed are worsening. We see the horrific reports daily in the news and can only pray that all sides will be able, in time, to "bear with one another in love" and find a lasting, peaceful solution to the present conflict.

Janice Thompson



Follow the Son

On Saturday 23 March we welcomed back Follow the Son for an evening of live music with excellent musicians and singers. What a varied repertoire they performed including several number one songs, Abba, Elton John, Frank Sinatra, Mariah Carey and Lauren Daigle's 'You say' and Israel Houghton's 'Friend of God'. (One family knew all the words and sang along!)

These very generous musicians gave their time and talent freely and enabled us to raise £724 to support equally one large and one very small charity. (Cancer Research UK and the South India Children's Education and Welfare Trust.)

If you missed the concert or would like to see Follow the Son again, they will be at East Molesey Methodist Church, Manor Road, East Molesey, KT8 9JU on Saturday 27 April at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 in aid of the Red Cross Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. For more details email events@emmc.org.uk

Lou Fellingham

Another Live in Concert event not to be missed is Lou Fellingham and band at St Richard's Church, Hanworth, TW13 6UN on Saturday 11 May at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £16 throughout April rising to £20 in May. Tickets available from St Richard's. <https://strichardshanworth.church/lou-fellingham>

Lou is an internationally known songwriter and worship leader with 10 albums to her name. Her website says, 'With a heart that longs for people to know God and his outrageous love, Lou and Nathan are tireless in their pursuit to write and record powerful songs and to lead people in singing truth that lifts their heads and stirs their hearts.'

For a taster of Lou and Nathan singing, have a look at Worship Wednesdays online every Wednesday morning from 8.30 to 9 am on Facebook and YouTube.

Rob Halligan

Rob Halligan will be at Hounslow Methodist Church also on 11 May at 7.30 pm. A professional musician for over 15 years, Rob is an award-winning singer/songwriter and has toured across the world, gaining a reputation as a passionate and engaging performer. Tickets are £10 and can be purchased here [Rob Halligan – Standing on the Edge – Hounslow Methodist Church](#)

In 2002 Rob left his 'real job' to pursue music as a profession. With a desire to use music to make a difference, his down to earth faith, honesty and storytelling connects with audiences everywhere and having lived a colourful life, "his songs and stories pack a powerful punch" (Rock'n'Reel). The BBC's Paul Gambaccini commented "These are some of the strongest songs I have heard".

Rob has supported children's charity, "Global Care", visiting Ethiopia Bangladesh and Lebanon raising awareness and money for some of the world's most disadvantaged children.

Liz Windaybank

Greetings from sunny Exeter!

Liz very kindly sends me your magazine and it's good to read about what's going on in Hampton. I'm here in Exeter until next year, when I shall likely enter the stationing process and end up goodness knows where! I'm very much enjoying being here in the South West and though there are challenges with smaller churches struggling with elderly members finding it hard to keep up with the demands of maintaining buildings and administrative requirements, there are also good news stories and many ways in which God is at work.

One of the churches I serve (Wonford) is located next door to the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital, and since the pandemic, we have had an influx of new members, most of whom work at the hospital. This has a lot to do with Edith, a wonderful lady from Nigeria who works at the hospital, and part of her role includes looking after those who have arrived from overseas and making them feel welcome. Quite a number have joined the church through her ministry! This has also led to a spate of baptisms which are always joyful occasions! The church is growing and thriving and is now a vibrant, multi-ethnic community. Many in the church believe that this is the fruit of many years of faithful prayer for the growth of the church and for a witness in the local area.

Another of the churches I service began a Messy Church group just before the pandemic. This may sound like unfortunate timing, but thanks to zoom, managed to keep the momentum building and now continues to attract new families and we are blessed by our friends at the parish church who have joined in, making it a wonderful ecumenical venture.

Life is a mixed bag, however, and I serve another church which has recently voted to close its doors. However, the fellowship is looking forward to being released from the onerous responsibility of looking after a very old building. One church in another section of our circuit became a class of another church some years ago, which released them from certain obligations, thus enabling them to concentrate on really being church! The result was that they grew in numbers, and last year they became an independent church once more! Sometimes what we think of as an ending can, in reality, be a new beginning.

If I may indulge in a little shameless self-advertisement, I'll take this opportunity to let you know I have a book coming out in April! I wrote it during my sabbatical three years ago (covid restriction still being in place, my original plans fell through) and it's finally going to be released, which I can't quite believe! It's called 'Time Conquered' and it's a series of reflections on 'Four Quartets' by T.S. Eliot (four poems about time, God and faith).

I hope everyone is well and I wish you every blessing in all you do for the Lord.

God bless,

Ben

Rev Ben Haslam was our pastor at Hampton Methodist Church from 2008 to 2013

All About Heaven by David Oliver

David Oliver wrote this book after his son had died at the young age of 38. His son was his best friend and he wanted to know where he had gone to, how he had arrived and what he would be doing. He desperately needed to find answers. He was apprehensive about the discoveries that he would make from the pages of scripture but he made a commitment to write about them. The book also includes some descriptions of near-death experiences.

The result is a well-researched, informative and wonderful account of what is promised to us as Christians and what we can expect. The book inspires joy and hope for the future as well as providing a source of comfort for the present time.

Linda Akkad

A Pocket Full of Hope: An A-Z of Answers to Life's Big Questions by Pat Allerton (otherwise known as the Portable Priest)

During Lockdown Pat Allerton decided to take his message out on the streets to people while the churches were locked. He was originally called the Portobello Priest, as that is his parish, but a local newspaper inadvertently turned him into Portable. As it sort of fitted what he was doing he decided to stick with it.

He got on his bike and with the help of a friend he rode around the streets of his parish trying to bring hope to all those stuck indoors. He had a loud speaker system set up and played Amazing Grace. Not knowing how this would be received, this was an experiment to see if anyone would engage and to his astonishment windows in high rise flats opened and people joined in the singing.

His book is really for those who are searching for answers. Maybe new Christians or those who might have completed Alpha courses or just asking questions and wanting answers who have not yet committed. I found it interesting to consider issues in this organised way and although I agree a regular worshipper might not get much out of it, I still found the content interesting with some thought-provoking questions to ask myself.

Pam Harrison

Jacko by Jeanne Willis

This is a lovely true animal story for children from around 9 years old but is equally enjoyed by adults! It is set in 1950s Teddington. Jacko was an injured fledgling jackdaw rescued from Bushy Park by young animal-mad Mick, who teaches him to fly but Jacko refuses to leave home! Jacko becomes a local celebrity, amusing customers in the Railway Hotel and regularly flies alongside the trains entering Teddington Station! When Jacko goes missing it is covered in the national press as well as in the Richmond and Twickenham Times and these stories with photos are reproduced at the end of the book. Oh, and Mick in real life becomes a head keeper at London Zoo!

Liz Windaybank

Magazine editors: Willem Sandberg and Liz Windaybank

Cover photo taken by Jacques early on Palm Sunday

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